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[50P4131]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is being made prior to a First Action on the merits, and thus, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no fee is due for its submission.

In accordance with the duty of disclosure imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to inform the Patent Office of all references known by Applicants or Applicants' representative that may be material to the examination of the subject application, Applicants' representative hereby provides this Information Disclosure Statement that is prepared in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98 and includes Form PTO-1449 with ten (10) references.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made. See 37 CFR § 1.97(g)

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Further, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that any publication or other information referred to herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). See 37 CFR § 1.98(h).

The items listed on PTO-1449 are in the English language. Hence, as the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.98 are presently understood, no further explanation of the listed items is necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 8/22/01

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